

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

AUG 28 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled).

2. (Currently Amended). Separation module according to claim [[1]] 27, wherein
~~said capillaries are combined at their endings by perforated plates and further comprising the end~~
~~plate is a perforated plate and the module further comprises a housing, which housing encloses~~
~~the bundle, the housing having an inlet and/or outlet pipe in fluid communication with the inside~~
~~of the capillaries for a first material flow and/or an outlet pipe in fluid communication with the~~
~~innerspace between the capillaries for a second material flow, wherein the distance between the~~
~~capillaries is further kept constant by spacers[[(6)]].~~

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended). Separation module according to Claim [[1]] 27, wherein
~~said external diameters range diameter ranges from 1 mm to 2.5 mm and said internal diameters~~
~~range diameter ranges from 0.7 to 1.5 mm.~~

5. (Currently Amended). Separation module according to Claim [[1]] 27, wherein the
distance between capillaries [[(9)]] in the capillary bundle is 0.05 - 10 mm.

6. (Previously Presented). Separation module according to Claim 5, wherein said distance is < 3 mm.

7. (Currently Amended). Separation module according to Claim [[1]] 27, wherein the distance between the capillaries [[(9)]] in the bundle is established by said one or more film strips as a function of the permeate flow and permeate medium.

8. (Currently Amended). Separation module according Claim [[1]] 27, wherein the capillary bundles have a diameter of from 10 mm to 250 mm.

9. (Previously Presented). Separation module according to Claim 8, wherein said diameter is from 20 mm to 50 mm.

10. (Currently Amended). Separation module according to Claim [[1]] 27, wherein the capillaries [[(9)]] have, on the inside, a thin membrane [[(M)]] having separation activity.

11. (Currently Amended). Separation module according to Claim [[1]] 27, wherein the capillaries [[(9)]] have, on the outside, a thin membrane [[(M)]] having separation activity.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended). Separation module according to Claim [[1]] 27, wherein

several bundles of capillaries are arranged parallel to each other in a housing and the separation module further comprises a feed space and a permeation space.

14. (Currently Amended). Separation module according to Claim 13, wherein the housing ~~is comprised of~~comprises stainless steel and a sealing ~~of the~~ feed space and permeation space is ~~effected~~sealed by an elastomer O-ring, a graphite seal or a sealing compound.

15. (Currently Amended). Separation module according to Claim 13, wherein the housing ~~is comprised of~~comprises ceramic and a sealing ~~of the~~ feed space and permeation space is ~~effected~~sealed at joints by ceramic- or glass-containing slip, paste or adhesive.

16. (Currently Amended). A membrane reactor comprising the separation module of Claim [[1]] 27, wherein the individual capillaries are coated with a catalyst or are themselves a catalyst or the catalyst is otherwise present in the module.

17. (Canceled).

18. (Currently Amended). Method according to Claim [[17]] 28, ~~wherein~~which further comprises placing sintered ceramic capillaries [[(9)]] are placed in holes at the bottom of a ~~mould~~mold[[(8)]], filling this ~~mould~~mold[[(8)]] is filled with a polymer-, ceramic- and/or glass-containing casting compound [[(10)]] and, after ~~demoulding~~demolding, cutting off the projecting ends of the capillaries[[(9)]] are cut off.

19. (Currently Amended). Method according to Claim [[17]] 28, whereinwhich further comprises inserting sintered ceramic capillaries are inserted into perforated discs and sealing the joints between the two are sealed with the use of polymer-, ceramic- or glass-containing slips, pastes or adhesives.

20. (Currently Amended). Method according to Claim [[17]] 28, whereinwhich further comprises inserting sintered ceramic capillaries are inserted into unsintered ceramic perforated discs and are firmly connectedconnecting by shrinkage of the perforated disc.

21. (Currently Amended). Method according to Claim [[17]] 28, whereinwhich further comprises inserting unsintered ceramic capillaries are inserted into unsintered ceramic perforated discs and firmly connectedconnecting by co-firing.

22. (Currently Amended). Method according to Claim [[17]] 28, whereinwhich further comprises winding sintered ceramic capillaries [[(9)]] are wound with at least one strip [[(13)]] of polymer-, ceramic- and/or glass-containing film, braid or woven fabric and firmly connectedconnecting by shrinkage during curing of the film.

23. (Currently Amended). Method according to Claim [[17]] 28, whereinwhich further comprises winding unsintered ceramic capillaries [[(9)]] are wound with at least one strip [[(13)]] of ceramic- and/or glass-containing film, braid or woven fabric and firmly connectedconnecting

by co-firing.

24. (Currently Amended). Method according to Claim [[17]] 28, wherein which further comprises coating the capillaries are-eated on their inside or outside walls with a membrane having separation activity and, in the case of a completely ceramic capillary bundle, coating with the membrane [[(M)]] having separation activity is-eeffected after completion of the capillary bundle in one step.

25. (Currently Amended). Method according to Claim [[17]] 28, wherein which further comprises coating the capillaries are-eated on their inside or outside walls with a membrane having separation activity, wherein a nonceramic component is present in the capillary bundle, and the capillaries are coated with the membrane [[(M)]] having separation activity prior to installation in the module.

26. (Currently Amended). A membrane separation process, wherein a fluid to be separated is passed through a separation module of Claim [[1]] 27, having a feed space and a permeation space, and wherein a vacuum is applied to the permeatepermeation space[[(3)]].

27. (New) A separation module comprising at least one bundle comprising a plurality of ceramic capillaries arranged in parallel and joined together by one or more film strips pressed at least partially around and connecting adjacent capillaries, the plurality of ceramic capillaries and one or more film strips being wound into said at least one bundle, the one or more film strips

when wound into said at least one bundle functioning as baffle plates, each of said capillaries in the bundle having an external diameter ranging from 0.3 mm to 10 mm and an internal diameter ranging from 0.1 mm to 8 mm, each of said capillaries in the bundle being spaced apart from an adjacent capillary in the bundle by a defined distance established by said one or more film strips, and an end of each of said capillaries passing through an end plate at a defined distance from an end of an adjacent capillary also passing through said end plate.

28. (New) A method of producing a separation module according to Claim 27, said method comprising: (a) providing a plurality of ceramic capillaries arranged in parallel, (b) joining the capillaries together by pressing one or more film strips at least partially around adjacent capillaries to connect them, each of said capillaries thereby being spaced apart from an adjacent capillary by a defined distance established by said one or more film strips, (c) winding the plurality of ceramic capillaries and one or film strips into said at least one bundle and (d) passing an end of each of said capillaries through an end plate at a defined distance from an end of an adjacent capillary also passing through said end plate.

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If entry and consideration of the amendments above requires an extension of time, Applicants respectfully request that this be considered a petition therefor. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee(s) due in this connection to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.